REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, Applicants respectfully submit that it is improper to make the status of the outstanding Office Action final. "Under present practice, second or any subsequent actions on the merits shall be final, except where the Examiner introduces a new ground of rejection that is neither necessitated by Applicants amendment of the claims, nor based on information submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement" (MPEP §706.07(a)). Applicants neither amended the claims nor submit an Information Disclosure Statement which would prompt the Examiner to introduce a new ground of rejection. Therefore, the final rejection of the subject application is believed to be improper. Withdrawal of finality is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (U.S. 2002/0140652) in view of Tashiro et al. (U.S. 6,876,347). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because the cited references, even if combined, still would not disclose or suggest the input image data of the maximum tone or the minimum tone being used only for data correction and not subject to the data correction, as in the present invention.

As described in claim 1, an input image data of the maximum tone or the minimum tone is used only for data correction, and is not itself subject to the data correction in the image data processor. A data driver outputs a correction value for correcting the input image data of the maximum tone and the minimum tone.

The Suzuki et al. reference discloses in Fig. 10, combining current input data nFi with a previous data (n-1)Fp in a decoder 302 to output a combined data S1. The Suzuki et al. reference does not relate to using the maximum tone or the minimum tone of the input data for data correction, as recognized by the Examiner.

The Tashiro et al. reference discloses using a correction voltage for speeding the response period of the liquid crystal elements, and teaches that a maximum value of the correction voltage is set higher than the maximum value of the signal voltage and that the minimum value of the correction value is set lower than the minimum value of the signal voltage (see col. 2, line 54 – col. 3, line 11). Thus, the Tashiro et al. reference teaches using a correction voltage, separate from the signal voltage in speeding the response speed of the liquid crystal elements. In other words, the reference does not disclose or suggest using the maximum tone or the minimum tone of the input image data itself, i.e., the signal voltage, in correcting data. The correction value for correcting the input image data of the maximum tone and the input data of the minimum tone is instead provided by a data driver.

The Tashiro et al. reference also does not disclose or suggest that the maximum and the minimum tones themselves are not subject to data correction in the image data processor. Therefore, even if the cited references were combined, they still would not disclose or suggest the maximum tone or the minimum tone of the input image data being used for data correction, and not being subject to the data correction in the image data processor, as in the present invention. For this reason, claims 1-7 and 12-14 are believed to be allowable over the cited references.

With respect to the rejection of claim 9, the Suzuki et al. reference is cited for disclosing the claimed processing part for increasing a luminance level and prohibiting the processing of the image data that has undergone a data correction. Claim 9 has been amended to describe, among other things, an error diffusion processing part configured to process the image data for generating a mean tone between a first tone and a second tone. The claim further describes that the image data processing part outputs a signal to prohibit the error diffusion part from generating the mean tone for image data that has undergone the data correction. Neither Suzuki et al. nor the Tashiro et al. reference disclose or suggest these features as now described in claim 9. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 describes that "a correction amount in the data correction is changed by a unit of at least one horizontal display line of a display part." Paragraph [0080] of Suzuki et al. is cited for disclosing the subject matter of claim 10. The cited paragraph describes the features shown in Fig. 12 of Suzuki et al., which shows input image data in each frame. This, however, does not relate at all to a backlight which shows a correction amount that is changed by a unit of at least one horizontal line of a display part, as described in claim 10. For at least this reason, claim 10 is believed to be allowable over Suzuki et al.

Claim 11 is rejected based on the temperature sensor 24 shown in Fig. 1 and described in paragraphs [0096] and [0097] of Suzuki et al. The cited paragraphs disclose that the temperature sensor is used to detect the temperature when the device is in use, and based on this temperature, the display drive data generation unit 12 downloads the most suitable

conversion table from the RAM for compensating the input drive data nFo. The Suzuki et al. reference does not disclose or suggest that the measured temperature itself is corrected in any way.

In contrast, the temperature measured in the present invention is corrected by a temperature correction amount that varies with time during a period from power supply time to a temperature stable time. The cited references, alone or in combination, simply do not disclose or suggest this feature of the present invention. Claim 11 is believed to be allowable for at least this reason.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application, including claims 1-14, is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney should the Examiner discover any remaining issues related to patentability.

Respectfully submitted,

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